

## In State Politics

## HOME RULE FEVER

Next Legislature Faces Another Decorated Batch of Bills.

Hand Painted Plans May Not Stand Up in Operation.

WOULD BE COSTLY TO TOWNS

No State Aid in Battles With the Local Utilities.

Farmer May Lose His Benefits From Corporations.

BY A. L. SHULTZ.

Proposals for home rule control of public service corporations will draw a lot of attention in the state legislature during the next few weeks. Governor-Elect Davis is seemingly committed to the program. Passage of the law—especially in the face of state control of rail rate-making—means fond, and last farewell to the public utilities commission.

The home rule theory is coming to Topeka this winter dressed like a Christmas doll. It will be offered with the striking fancy color and paint and spangles of an Italian jubilee and there is a possibility that the plan may find its way through the legislature. If the home rule law really passes Kansas will have more plain and fancy rates and schedules for utilities than patterns in an aid society quilt.

Public service corporations are not half worried about the home rule plan, it seems. It will put the rate making system back to the grand old style of a quarter century ago and the happy community election issues involving pool halls, cigarette smoking and public dances will be lost in a whirlwind scramble to control the rate making power. Naturally when they go down the good old home town can hire a flock of high class attorneys and try to defend the new schedule in the courts. Right there is where the home rule theory seemingly becomes scrambled.

Towns Pay Own Bills.

Successful operation of the home rule plan will involve several things other than winning of the city election for the dear people. Once the plain plug voters win the town majority or city commission fight the job will merely be started. Having reached that point the dear old home town property owners might comfortably settle back in their chairs and prepare for some increased tax levies. Fighting utility rate increases will be a money and under home rule application every town pays its own bills. Once the state commission is successfully bumped on the head the towns with local utilities can begin gathering quotations as to rates which experts, engineers and accountants will find out if they had any value, and was told that they apparently belonged to Bray. Wilkinson says he spent much of his time in search of Bray in order to return the baby bonds, and that when he had done so, was missing and had Wilkinson arrested.

Wilkinson says he suffered indignities and mental and physical torture at the hands of the kangaroo court which the prisoners of the county jail, waiting in the stocks, and whipped, he asserted, then fined \$2. He also asserts that his arrest prevented him from obtaining a position which had been promised him.

WILSON'S PLEASURE FOR WILSON.

Former President Happy Over Resolution Passed by Senate.

Washington, Dec. 30.—Woodrow Wilson sent a letter to Vice President Calvin Coolidge, saying he had given "genuine pleasure" by the senate's action in passing a resolution on his sixtieth birthday, commemorating his return to the White House.

ARMOUR STOCK FOR SALE.

Offer Tuesday Will Include Sixty Million Preferred at 7 Per Cent.

Chicago, Dec. 30.—Sixty million dollars worth of 7 per cent preferred stock of Armour & Co., of Delaware, will be offered for public sale on Tuesday, it was announced today. The price will be \$19 per share.

Bandits Rob a Paymaster.

Cleveland, Dec. 30.—The paymaster of the Ferry Cap & Sew company was held up and robbed of the company's payroll of \$19,000 near the plant just after 9 o'clock this morning by five bandits, who escaped in an automobile.

COUNCIL GROVE WOLF DRIVE.

Kansas City and Topeka Sportsmen to Enter New Year.

Council Grove, Kan., Dec. 30.—But two wolves were caught in the big drive here Friday afternoon. Several others were in the ring, but a weak line on one side permitted them to escape.

Another drive will be held here January 4, at which time several men from Kansas City and Topeka will attend. The drive January 4 is to be one of the largest ever pulled off in Morris county.

ADVANCE PRICE OF CRUDE OIL.

Hike of 25 Cents Per Barrel Announced on Pennsylvania.

Pittsburgh, Pa., Dec. 30.—The price of Pennsylvania crude oil was advanced 25 cents, to \$1.25 a barrel, by the principal oil companies here at the opening of the market today. Other advances of 25 cents a barrel were:

Cabell, \$1.11; Somerset, \$1.30; Somerset light, \$1.12; Corning, \$1.25; and Ragland at \$1.00, were exchanged.

Escaping Convict Is Slain.

Chicago, Dec. 30.—Jack Spock, an escaped convict, was shot and killed and his "pal" Richard Preston, who also had fled the Joliet reform farm, was wounded in a desperate battle today with a squad of detectives who surrounded a West side rooming house in which the convicts were hiding.

Killed Under His Automobile.

Anderson, Ind., Dec. 30.—Minor Hugh, 27, was killed when he was pinned beneath his automobile on a road near here. It is believed the lost control of his machine and crashed over an embankment.

## WANTS

ADVERTISING RATES. The rate for inserting Want Ads in The Topeka State Journal is 2 cents per word each insertion; minimum 10 cents; by the week 5 cents a word; minimum 50 cents.

CLOSING HOUR: Want Ads to be classified and ready for insertion in the Journal office before 12:30 p.m. Want Ads received after 12:30 p.m. will be inserted under the heading "Too late to classify."

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS.

H. S. Fortney to East Side Shuangnang Drainage District, lot 10, 10-55 Lake St. D. Bowers sub. 15 W. R. Taggart to B. Metzger, lots 2000-11-15 Lincoln st., Q. & S. add. 1 M. Lowman to E. Tew, lots 352, pt. 353, High ave., Washburn, 1000 add. 1 J. A. Crabb to M. J. Scripps and others, lot 220, 220-221, 222-223, 224-225, 226-227, 228-229, 230-231, 232-233, 234-235, 236-237, 238-239, 240-241, 242-243, 244-245, 246-247, 248-249, 250-251, 252-253, 254-255, 256-257, 258-259, 260-261, 262-263, 264-265, 266-267, 268-269, 270-271, 272-273, 274-275, 276-277, 278-279, 280-281, 282-283, 284-285, 286-287, 288-289, 290-291, 292-293, 294-295, 296-297, 298-299, 300-301, 302-303, 304-305, 306-307, 308-309, 310-311, 312-313, 314-315, 316-317, 318-319, 320-321, 322-323, 324-325, 326-327, 328-329, 330-331, 332-333, 334-335, 336-337, 338-339, 340-341, 342-343, 344-345, 346-347, 348-349, 350-351, 352-353, 354-355, 356-357, 358-359, 360-361, 362-363, 364-365, 366-367, 368-369, 370-371, 372-373, 374-375, 376-377, 378-379, 380-381, 382-383, 384-385, 386-387, 388-389, 390-391, 392-393, 394-395, 396-397, 398-399, 400-401, 402-403, 404-405, 406-407, 408-409, 410-411, 412-413, 414-415, 416-417, 418-419, 420-421, 422-423, 424-425, 426-427, 428-429, 430-431, 432-433, 434-435, 436-437, 438-439, 440-441, 442-443, 444-445, 446-447, 448-449, 450-451, 452-453, 454-455, 456-457, 458-459, 460-461, 462-463, 464-465, 466-467, 468-469, 470-471, 472-473, 474-475, 476-477, 478-479, 480-481, 482-483, 484-485, 486-487, 488-489, 490-491, 492-493, 494-495, 496-497, 498-499, 500-501, 502-503, 504-505, 506-507, 508-509, 510-511, 512-513, 514-515, 516-517, 518-519, 520-521, 522-523, 524-525, 526-527, 528-529, 530-531, 532-533, 534-535, 536-537, 538-539, 540-541, 542-543, 544-545, 546-547, 548-549, 550-551, 552-553, 554-555, 556-557, 558-559, 560-561, 562-563, 564-565, 566-567, 568-569, 570-571, 572-573, 574-575, 576-577, 578-579, 580-581, 582-583, 584-585, 586-587, 588-589, 590-591, 592-593, 594-595, 596-597, 598-599, 600-601, 602-603, 604-605, 606-607, 608-609, 610-611, 612-613, 614-615, 616-617, 618-619, 620-621, 622-623, 624-625, 626-627, 628-629, 630-631, 632-633, 634-635, 636-637, 638-639, 640-641, 642-643, 644-645, 646-647, 648-649, 650-651, 652-653, 654-655, 656-657, 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